



Down Under, Out Yonder

June 24-28, 2006



Galveston, TX

Land-Based Workshop Activities (June 24-25, 2006):

- Informative presentations and activities about the Flower Garden Banks NMS, coral reef biology, natural and human impacts on coral reefs, research in the sanctuary, resource management, etc.
- Reef fish identification course with field trip to Moody Gardens
- Networking with workshop presenters, alumni and other participants
- Development of action plans to incorporate new knowledge and skills into classroom

Field Activities (June 25-28, 2006):

- Opportunity for up to 11 dives
- Review of fish ID skills and participation in REEF's Great Annual Fish Count
- Informal discussions with researchers and staff

Post-Workshop Activities:

- Workshop evaluation
- Post-test
- Thank you notes to workshop sponsors (optional)
- Implementation of action plans and follow-up summary to sanctuary

\$250 Workshop Tuition Includes:

- Saturday evening lodging and meal
- All meals and snacks Sunday through Wednesday lunch
- Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) fish identification course
- REEF membership and fish census participation privileges
- All presentation and activity sessions
- Teaching tools and resources
- Boat trip, including SCUBA tank & air refills (regular retail value: \$450)

Other possible costs:

- Dive insurance (if your regular insurance does not cover air evacuation and hyperbaric chamber treatment)
- Travel to and from Galveston, TX
- Hotel before or after trip (if you choose to arrive early or stay overnight upon return). Remember, you must wait 24 hours after your last dive before you can fly.
- Dive gear rental. Tanks and air are included. Weights can be provided for those travelling by air. All other gear needs to be supplied by the participant.
- Souvenir T-shirts on dive boat
- Nitrox (approximately \$38 extra) - only for Nitrox-certified divers
- Pre-workshop dives, if required by dive review team (or as a refresher)
- Cost of the required physical examination

How to apply:

- Download or request an application
- Send completed application to:
Attn: Education Workshop
Flower Garden Banks NMS
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, TX 77551
or Fax: 409-766-3489
or E-mail: kelly.drinnen@noaa.gov

Applications must be received by close of business February 24, 2006.

Selected participants will be notified the week of March 13th, 2006.

An extensive package of paperwork will arrive after acceptance into the workshop. All selected participants will be required to have a physical examination and medical history form signed by a doctor, certifying physical fitness for diving. The physical includes a **required ECG/EKG and blood work** and must be dated no more than one year from the final date of the workshop (between June 29, 2005 and June 23, 2006). **A chest x-ray is also required** within 4 years of the workshop (since June 29, 2002).

Selection Criteria:

1. At least two-thirds of the participants will be selected from states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. The remaining positions will also be open to educators from other states.
2. Selection will be based primarily on the summary of plans to incorporate the newly gained knowledge and skills into existing classroom curricula. Dive experience will be a secondary consideration.
3. Please note that this is considered an intermediate to advanced dive site (depending on weather and sea surface conditions). **Applicants MUST have previous salt water diving experience.** Getting back on the boat can be TOUGH!! The Gulf of Mexico Foundation reserves the right to deny participation based on medical history or insufficient dive experience.

******* ADVISORY *******

Potential participants should be aware that the call to cancel the trip due to weather will not be made until noon the day of departure. In the event the dive portion of the trip is cancelled, the land-based presentations will still be presented. The dive-related portion of your tuition will be refunded.

**** CANCELLATIONS ****

Workshop participants who cancel their participation less than four weeks prior to departure will not be allowed a full refund of tuition. Those who cancel two weeks or less prior to departure will receive NO refund.

Questions?

Contact Kelly Drinnen at 409-766-3572, 409-789-8144 or kelly.drinnen@noaa.gov